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Art Unit: 1744

From: Thomas Spinelli, Esq.
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Date: February 8, 2007

Re: USSN: 10/696,638
Our Docket: 17154

CC:

☐ Urgent ☐ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply ☐ Please Acknowledge

The following is being filed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via facsimile on February 8, 2007:

1. Response to Species Election
2. Certificate of Facsimile Transmission

Applicants: Hisashi Kuroshima, et al.
Serial No.: 10/696,638
For: STORAGE DEVICE FOR STEAM STERILIZING
Filed: October 29, 2003
Docket: 17154
Dated: February 8, 2007
TS:cm

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Hisashi Kuroshima, et al. **Examiner:** Sean Everett Conley
Serial No: 10/696,638 **Art Unit:** 1744
Filed: October 29, 2003 **Docket:** 17154
For: STORAGE DEVICE FOR
STEAM STERILIZING **Dated:** February 8, 2007
Conf. No.: 5491

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE SPECIES ELECTION

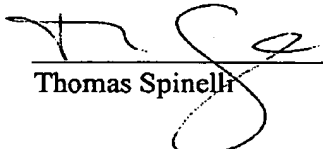
Sir:

Pursuant to the election requirement imposed in the Official Action dated January 8, 2007, Applicants elect the claims of Species I, i.e., Claims 1-26 for continued prosecution herein.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date set forth below.

Dated: February 8, 2007


Thomas Spinel

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Claims 1-34 are present in the above-captioned application and have been subjected to a species election under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Specifically, the Official Action avers that the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention are present in the claims:

Species I, characterized by Figures 1A-1D and 2;

Species II, characterized by Figure 3; and

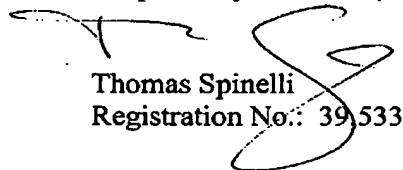
Species III, characterized by Figures 4-7.

It is the Examiner's position that the species listed as Species I, II and III are patentably distinct from each other.

In response to the Examiner's requirement for species election, Applicants elect to prosecute the subject matter of Species I, Claims 1-26. However, Applicants reserve the right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter in this application.

In view of the foregoing, an examination on the merits of the elected claims, at an early date, is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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